

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A tool holder of a machine tool, comprising:

a holder body;

a tool receiving surface part for receiving a rear end face of a shaft-like tool so as to form an internal a closed space bounded on one side by in contact with the rear end face, said shaft-like tool being fixed on a front end of the holder body and having one or more passages for leading mist cutting fluid from the internal space to a front end face of the shaft-like tool; and

mist cutting fluid passages for leading mist cutting fluid fed from a front end part of a spindle to the internal closed space;

wherein an exhaust passage is formed for opening the internal closed space to the atmosphere, said exhaust passage being in addition to said one or more passages a passage of the shaft-like tool in communication with the closed space, the internal space being closed on the side bounded by the rear end face of the shaft-like tool except for said one or more passages of the shaft-like tool.

2. (Currently amended) A tool holder of a machine tool as claimed in claim 1, wherein said exhaust passage has a circular portion near a center of rotation of the internal closed space, concentrically outside the mist cutting fluid passages ~~open to the atmosphere~~.

3. (Currently amended) A tool holder of a machine tool, comprising:

a holder body;

a tool receiving surface part for receiving a rear end face of a shaft-like tool so as to

form an internal a-closed space bounded on one side by ~~in contact with~~ the rear end face, said shaft-like tool being fixed on a front end of the holder body; and

mist cutting fluid passages for leading mist cutting fluid fed from a front end part of a spindle to the internal closed space;

wherein said tool receiving surface part is excavated rearward to form an excavated part large in diameter, and a front end part of said mist cutting fluid passages protrudes so as to form a circular space between a peripheral wall of said mist cutting fluid passages and the excavated part, and

wherein an exhaust passage is formed for communicating said internal space with the atmosphere, said exhaust passage comprising opening a circular portion bounded by and concentrically outside the mist cutting fluid passages near a center of rotation of a ~~the~~ rear end face of the excavated part ~~to the atmosphere~~.

4. (Previously amended) A tool holder of a machine tool as claimed in claim 1, wherein said tool receiving surface part forms a front end face of a tool receiving member adjustable in longitudinal position in the holder body.

5. (Currently amended) A tool holder of a machine tool as claimed in claim 3, wherein said tool receiving surface part and said excavated part are formed on a front end face of a tool receiving member adjustable in longitudinal position in the holder body, and the ~~a~~ tool receiving member defines part at the rear of the excavated part forms a double pipe structure concentric with the ~~its~~ center of rotation of the excavated part, and

wherein an inside of an inner tube of the double pipe structure forms a part of the mist cutting fluid passages, and a circular space between the inner tube and an outer tube of the double pipe structure opens into the excavated part to form a first portion of the exhaust passage.

6. (Previously amended) A tool holder of a machine tool as claimed in claim 5, wherein said exhaust passage portion opens to the atmosphere through a space formed at the front end part of the holder body and through an inner space of a holder body part surrounding a rear end part of the double pipe structure and a second portion of the exhaust passage formed between the tool receiving member and the holder body.

7. (Currently amended) A tool holder of a machine tool as claimed in claim 1, wherein an automatic switching valve is provided in the exhaust passage, and said automatic switching valve opens when air pressure in the internal ~~closed~~ space is above a fixed level.

8. (Currently amended) A tool holder of a machine tool as claimed in claim 5, wherein a cylindrical valve for opening and shutting the exhaust passage and a spring for pressing said cylindrical valve forward are positioned on a peripheral wall part of the mist cutting fluid passages, on the tool receiving member ~~portion of~~ at the rear of the double pipe structure, and

wherein the cylindrical valve is pushed and displaced rearward against the elasticity of said spring due to the air pressure in the internal ~~closed~~ space in order to open said exhaust passage when the air pressure is above the fixed level, and conversely, the cylindrical valve is pushed and displaced forward due to the elasticity of said spring to close said exhaust passage

when said air pressure is below the fixed level.